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trouble, doubtless it will cause every one a certain amount of trouble, but I think myself the benefit will be to the colony at large, and I think I may say the commercial world generally, should overcome any objections they may be under that head. As regards expense, it will cost us as taxpayers something, but I don't suppose it will be serious or affect us individually very much. Then as regards the other point, about the secrets being let out, well, I say if there is any gentleman who entertains that view, let him out with it, let us get at the bottom of it, and we will soon put a stop to whatever may appear objectionable in the form of the returns. Another objection I heard it is morning. One of the chief opponents of the measure said that there was a very considerable business done in this colony in certain articles which, as he puts it, are admitted into China free of duty. Well, now, gentlemen, what does that mean? That there is a certain contraband trade done in this colony and the articles are admitted into China without payment of duties. That remark was made to Mr. Morgan, of the Customs, and when I heard that, I thought I had never seen a more clear case of letting the cat out of the bag. What will be the result? Ships will be very closely watched at all the ports of China, and perhaps a certain amount of delay and inconvenience caused. Whatever importance may attach to this contraband trade, which very probably is exaggerated, I was given to understand that is the reason the Bill is opposed by a certain gentleman in this colony. I hope if he is present amongst us this evening, he will clearly state his views. This Bill might perhaps be modified through discussion this evening, and we might be able to come to some definite opinion as to the various clauses, but if we can get some means whereby statistics of the important trade of this colony can be compiled, I am sure it would be to the advantage of all business. And I include my Chinese friends as well; they object to it at present, but I hope they will come to see it would be just as much to their interest as to the interest of foreigners that an official record of the trade of the port should be kept. I think, as far as I know, all my friends generally approve of it. Yes, they say, if you will give us the figures we should like to see them, but we object to the trouble, and we are not going to the expense of say \$500 a year for an extra clerk. However, I trust it will be recognised that the action I have taken has been purely in a commercial spirit, and if it can be shown this evening that the Bill is not desirable, or is detrimental to the true interests of the colony, then I for one will be glad to change my views.

The Chairman proposed that before they proceeded further the meeting should resolve itself into a committee of the whole, in order that the rules of debate might be suspended, and gentlemen be allowed to speak more than once if they wished.

This was assented to. Mr. E. R. Bellios—It seems to me the question that is now before us lies in a nutshell. We are not asked to meet here to discuss something that is new. I maintain that it has been tried, and has failed in its effects in the neighbouring colony of Singapore. Now, the question for us would be, would it be advisable for us to give that Bill a trial *de novo*? I think it is not accepted generally, and the results are never satisfactory. I admit with regard to the schedules, I don't know whether it has failed altogether at Singapore, but at all events it has partially attained its objects.

The Chairman—The report of the Singapore Chamber says so. Mr. Bellios—I think I remember reading the correspondence to the effect that the thing did not really succeed. It is a question of expense. I think however small the expense may be we shall have to remunerate our clerks for filling up these returns. As we all know, some of our clerks are overworked, and even at the time they might have to devote to filling up these returns it would be necessary to remunerate them, and I don't suppose every one of us can afford to do that. Then we know how economically our Chinese friends work their establishments. If one Hong Kong had to contribute only one, or two, or five dollars to carry out the provisions of this Bill, the aggregate sum would be large, and the results to be got from it would not be commensurate with the expense. If for no other reason than that our Chinese fellow citizens do not care to have a Bill of this kind, I think we ought to defer to them. We have to work very much with the Chinese, and I think it would be hard to encumber them with things they dislike. It is all very well for us to run away with the notion that we are thriving, that we are progressing at a very rapid pace. I maintain that our prosperity has not had sufficient time to root. It is not like an immense tree whose roots go into the bowels of the earth for several feet and with branches here and there that you can play with as you like. I think it would be hazardous to interfere with such roots as we have. In fact we have done nothing to support the colonisation of the place. If you look at the emigration that has taken place from China during the last thirty or forty years, you will see that thousands of souls have emigrated, how much have we taken of that emigration? Probably not one-twentieth. We have waste lands which we want occupied, and I think we should encourage people to settle down here. Really, in my opinion, a short Ordinance making it compulsory on junk owners and agents of ships coming in and going out to furnish copies of the manifests of all the ships would be sufficient. We would get all the information we want, and this Bill would be unnecessary.

The Chairman—I agree with Mr. Bellios. This colony owes its prosperity to trade being as little hampered as possible. We are now going to impose more trammels upon it. I entirely disagree with the argument that it will improve trade or do it any good whatever. The Colony has got to its present growth by its freedom, and this Bill certainly takes away some of its freedom. Mr. Ho Amel—As you know, the Chinese community have carefully considered the Bill, and have resolved to oppose it. Forty-two petitions, representing forty-two branches of trade, are going to be presented to the Government against the Bill. Hong Kong derives its prosperity from the freedom of the port and the liberty enjoyed in it. This is why the Chinese from the mainland have flocked here, and the Chinese coming means bringing business into the Colony, thereby increasing the value of property and adding to the revenue of the Colony. Taxation and stamp duty are different from any other port. We do not import goods for our own use, and we do not require returns of imports and exports to know the wants of the people. For more than forty years this little island of Hong Kong, a mere rock, has gone on growing to its present prosperity without any statistics of imports and exports whatever. I do not see why the existing state of things should be disturbed, and the cost, trouble, and annoyance which will attend the enforcing of this Bill be incurred. We are prospering day by day, houses are springing up to the extreme eastward, and I do not see why we should disturb this state of things in order to compile needless statistics. Hong Kong is dependent entirely on business increasing, for increased business means increased population and increased value of landed property. You would drive business away by disturbing it. China is very close to Hong Kong; it is not like

California or Australia, where you have to pay \$50 or \$100 if you wish to return; you can get from here to China for fifty cents. We have interests here and property, and I think the policy ought to be not to disturb these interests. In the petitions which are to be presented against the Bill you will see what our view is. I hope the Chamber will support the Bill, and I hope the Chamber will support the Bill. Mr. Woodin—I endorse every word Mr. MacEwen has said. I think it very desirable we should have records of the imports and exports of the Colony. It is said we do not want statistics, but as to that, I may say that our place (P. & O. office) is crowded every time a mail comes in with Chinamen trying to get all the information they can.

Mr. Ho Amel—If the Bill is passed, it may not affect the for ign community, but it will materially affect the Chinese. Fines will be got out of the Chinese as in the case of opium. You don't find the Europeans fined, but all the Chinese will be subjected to it. You must remember that if the foreign community are importers, the Chinese are vendors. If the Bill affects the vendors it affects the importers. The Chairman—I would repeat a statement I made elsewhere. I am connected with the Legislature of this colony and I know one of the standing rules was that no fresh legislation incurring expense should be undertaken unless the Secretary of State is told where the revenue is to come from to defray that expense. There, I think, the supporters of the Bill will fail, because how will you pay for it? You cannot take it out of the Police rate, you cannot take it out of the land tax, you cannot take it out of the light dues, because they are required for something else. Where are you to take it from? It will involve a new tax and possibly a tax on the goods themselves. What will your constituents say to this? What they will say is this—Hong Kong has had the reputation ever since it has been a British Colony of having the lightest charges on merchandise ever known, and here we are going to increase those charges for no benefit to anyone.

Mr. Woodin—As to the expense, that could be recouped by selling the monthly returns. The Chairman—Goods are to be examined, that will necessitate a staff of examiners, just the same as in Custom-house. Who is to pay for this? And what is the examiner going to do? Is he going to open the cases? If you have a case of white or grey shirtings, he is going to open the tins? How else is he going to examine them? There is no other way that I can see. Furthermore, as I was informed by a gentleman from a treaty port to-day, these regulations are much more irksome and annoying than those at the treaty ports. There we have no trouble. We send in the ship's manifest and we have nothing more to do; the Customs looks after the rest. Here we are to be subjected to exacting regulations more than those at Shanghai. Mr. Macintosh—A good deal has been said about the freedom of the port. I agree to the fullest extent with everything that has been said as to that. The prosperity of the place depends upon its freedom from irksome regulations of all kinds, and mainly on its shipping—solely on its shipping. Notwithstanding that, I think very much of the Bill. This is a civilised community, and I think it a standing disgrace to us that we should have existed so many years without a record of what the trade is, without even a vestige of a record worthy of the name. A great deal has been said about the trouble, I admit with regard to the schedules, I don't know whether it has failed altogether at Singapore, but at all events it has partially attained its objects.

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for the native and the foreigner, that it really seems. If it does, I for one, should be very willing to come forward to see that equality of justice is dealt out to every one. (Applause.) The Chairman—I propose that we should now submit a resolution to obtain a consensus of opinion of this meeting either for or against this Bill. I propose that this Chamber is opposed to the Bill, especially in its present form. Hon. C. P. Chater—I second that. Mr. Mackintosh—I beg to move an amendment that a Bill on this principle be adopted. Mr. Woodin—I second that. The amendment was then put, when eight hands were held up in its favour and from fifteen to twenty against it, but the votes were not counted. The amendment was therefore lost, and the original motion declared carried. The meeting then broke up.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The members of the Hongkong Rifle Association had their annual meeting yesterday afternoon at the Hongkong Hotel. Major-General Gordon took the chair, and there were present:—Col. Anderson, Major Ellis, Major Dempster, Capt. Collinson, Lieut. Prichard, Messrs. E. L. Woodin, A. S. Hooper, H. J. Holmes, J. Andrew, and A. Woolley.

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts for the year ended the 31st December, 1887, said the members should find them exceedingly satisfactory, showing we were entirely clear of debt. Accumulation of funds was not the purport of this Association, its only aim being to employ any surplus funds for providing prizes. There was a balance of \$82 from the last year; this sum, with the subscriptions for the current year, was sufficient for all the requirements of the Association. The report of the working Committee showed what had been done during the past year, with the exception of a match between the Association and the Officers of the 58th Regiment, which the Association lost, not as they thought, with distinction, because they held their own fairly well considering that they were shooting against a regiment well known for their skill as marksmen. The great usefulness of this Association consisted in the fact that they had a considerable number of members who for various reasons were unable to qualify as Volunteers, but were taught the use of a military weapon, and who consequently, in a moment of emergency, would be most useful allies for the protection of the Colony. For that reason he thought the Government of Hong Kong should recognise and support the Association. He was sure that every military officer would support him when he said that in spite of their batteries, guns, and navy, the Garrison was not one third strong enough for the defence of Hong Kong. Should anything occur which withdrew the protection of the navy for a short time, it would be necessary for the Government to call upon every man to come to the front, and it was for that reason that he maintained that by training their members to the use of the rifle, the Association was benefiting the Colony. (Applause.)

He might mention that that afternoon he had received promise of prizes to be shot for from Mr. Kuhn, Mr. J. D. Humphreys, and the Hon. C. P. Chater. He thought if others would follow their good example they might have a very successful meeting this year. They might have a regular little Wimbledon, with their tents and their refreshments, and their ladies—(laughter)—and make the meeting as popular as the Race meeting or the Regatta. He now proposed that the accounts be passed. Major Dempster having seconded the motion, it was carried unanimously. Mr. Woolley proposed—that Mr. Shelton Hooper be elected hon. secretary and treasurer. Lieut. Prichard seconded, and the resolution was carried. On the motion of Mr. E. L. Woodin, seconded by the Chairman, the following gentlemen were elected to form the Committee for the ensuing year:—Major-General Gordon, Col. Anderson, Major Dempster, Major Ellis, Lieut. Prichard, Major Tripp, Messrs. E. L. Woodin, Alf. Woolley, J. Andrew, A. S. Hooper, and H. J. Holmes.

Col. Anderson proposed and Major Dempster seconded—that General Gordon be elected Chairman of the Committee. Carried unanimously. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Col. Anderson, Major Ellis, Major Dempster, and Lieut. Prichard for the services rendered to the Association. Mr. H. J. Holmes seconded, and the vote was carried by acclamation. Col. Anderson then returned thanks on behalf of himself and brother officers, and this concluded the business of the meeting.

THE ALLEGED INDECENT ASSAULT CASE.

The further hearing of this case was resumed at the Magistrate's this afternoon. Mr. H. E. Woodin presiding. Mr. W. Wotton again appeared for Miss Renda Bigent, the complainant, the prisoner, (Private C. F. Dawkes, 38th Regiment) being defended by Mr. J. F. Webber. Mr. Wotton regretted to inform his Worship that the complainant was unfortunately in too weak a state of health to be able to attend. Mr. Webber remarked that the fainting fit which complainant had yesterday was not so bad as made out, and thought co-plaintant ought to be present.

Mr. Wotton thereupon handed his Worship a medical certificate to the effect that Miss Bigent was too ill to attend the Court. James Duffin, after hearing the evidence he gave on Tuesday read over by his Worship, said, in reply to Mr. Webber—I have been at the Naval Hospital for four years. On the 5th inst. I went on duty at 3 p.m. and remained until 9 p.m., and saw about seven soldiers pass the gate during that time. The prisoner was not one of the soldiers that passed the gate about 3.30. I won't swear that he was not. I don't remember Mr. Maxwell saying "he looks like a soldier's wife; somebody said so, but I don't know who it was. They did not look like husband and wife; they were too far apart (laughter). They were about four feet apart. I talked the matter over with Inspector Hennessey, who was with me about 5 or 10 minutes. The lady first turned into Kennedy Road; she turned into the Road behind the soldier. I don't know that she looked into his face; she did not seem to take any notice of him. I do not think she gave him "the tip" to follow her. Maxwell left about half an hour after the couple parted. They were not of my sight for a few minutes in passing up the road, as may have been side by side. That is as near as I can tell.

By Mr. Wotton—I have been 8 years in the force. I did not see any other woman and a soldier on that day. Question objected to by Mr. Webber, and finally disallowed by his Worship. Cross-examination continued—The young woman passed behind the prisoner, and gave him no sign whatever. By his Worship—I saw them walking along Queen's Road about 7 yards before, coming to the Kennedy Road. The prisoner was walking unsteadily along the road. Sabina Thompson—(coloured man) in reply to the Magistrate, said—I am an engineer, and on that day I walked to the Race-course, so far

as the Grand-stand. It was about four o'clock. I did not see any soldiers on the road. I saw a constable coming down from Morrison Hill, she was walking quite leisurely, and the dog was by her side. I saw her struggling violently with the prisoner, who was lying on the top of her. I did not see how she got him off; they were both lying at full length. I was too far away to hear whether she made any noise; if she had screamed very loudly I might have heard her; they were about 300 yards away from me by the road. They were on that part of the road just turning to go down to Wanchai; he had hold of her, dragging her up the hill, and she was pulling against him, and at last got away from him, walking very quickly; the dog was barking, and saw him throw her down the ground, and then he appeared to fall on the top of her. I cannot say whether he fell by accident or not. I saw the lady struggling with him; and also saw the dog spring at him. I ran to give her assistance, but when I got there she had got up, and was running away, and he followed her very quickly. I did not see him touch her again; he did not overtake her, and he was not reeling about. On seeing him in Queen's Road I could see that he was drunk; that was when the constable had hold of him.

By Mr. Webber—I did not see the prisoner with her. I was 300 yards behind them; I cannot swear. They walked about the length of that table in such a way. I saw him pull her towards the hill side; the lady was pulling downwards towards Queen's Road, and the soldier got in front of her I don't know how long it occupied. I had not my watch with me. By his Worship—I should say they were about a minute on the ground. By Mr. Webber—I did not hear screaming. If she could scream as loud as the dog could bark I might have heard her. The lady got up first, and then he got up. When I saw her in Queen's Road I told her to go to No. 2, Station and say that I had seen it all, and that my name was Thompson. Afterwards I was sent for by Inspector Hennessey, and had a conversation with him about it. I told my mother about it, nobody else.

At this point the case was remanded until Tuesday, the 13th instant, at 2 p.m.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT THE DIOCESAN HOME SCHOOL.

The distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Diocesan Home and Orphanage took place to-day, at noon, in the main hall of the institution. Amongst the visitors present were H. E. Major-General Cameron, C.B., who was attended by Lieut. Soperville, A.D.C.; Bishop and Mrs. Hudson, Mr. Reid, Messrs. H. B. Henderson, A. G. Goldsmith, H. B. Harper, B. W. Wainman, J. B. Osi, G. H. Bond, J. D. Chalmers, Dr. Eitel, Dr. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Granville Sharp, Mrs. McEwen, Hon. E. L. O'Malley, Mr. W. D. Braithwaite, Mr. W. H. Forbes, and numerous other ladies and gentlemen. Mr. G. Piercy, headmaster of the school, opened the proceedings by reading the following report.

Your Excellency, my Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen.—In reviewing the past year we must commence by returning thanks to Almighty God that, whilst there was much sickness both in the neighbourhood, and in the school, we were all spared to see the close of the year. We began the year with 150 scholars, and at the year's end we had 145 scholars, 15 day scholars, and 1 day scholar. The school was taught on 250 days (exclusive of Sundays). The total number of scholars on the roll was 100 (9 girls, 91 boys), and the average attendance rose from 52 in 1886 to 63.34 in 1887. The fees collected were \$386.88, being an increase of nearly 4 per cent. For the first time one of our boys entered for the Cambridge University Local Examination, but the results will not be known in Hong Kong for some weeks. In December H.M.'s Inspector of Schools examined 46 children, who had made up the requisite 200 days' attendance, and 145 children (or 72.5 per cent) passed. The only boy that failed had studied English less than a year and came to grief in the intricacies of English spelling. In Reading, Arithmetic, English History, English Grammar and Composition, 100 per cent. passed. In Geography 94.12 per cent. passed, and 89 in Dictation. As many boys do not know a word of English, when they first come, Dictation and Composition are our most difficult subjects. Of 50 papers on special subjects (Euclid, Algebra, Physical Geography) 8 failed while the regular 200 days' attendance was maintained (or 72.5 per cent) passed. The only boy that failed had studied English less than a year and came to grief in the intricacies of English spelling. In Reading, Arithmetic, English History, English Grammar and Composition, 100 per cent. passed. In Geography 94.12 per cent. passed, and 89 in Dictation. As many boys do not know a word of English, when they first come, Dictation and Composition are our most difficult subjects. Of 50 papers on special subjects (Euclid, Algebra, Physical Geography) 8 failed while the regular 200 days' attendance was maintained (or 72.5 per cent) passed. The only boy that failed had studied English less than a year and came to grief in the intricacies of English spelling.

AN Important Discovery is announced in the *Paris Figaro*, of a valuable remedy for nervous debility, physical exhaustion, and premature decay. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico; it saved him from a miserable existence and he eventually became a learned man. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico; it saved him from a miserable existence and he eventually became a learned man. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico; it saved him from a miserable existence and he eventually became a learned man.

Today's Advertisements.

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED. FOR MANILA VIA AMOY. THE Company's Steamship

"ZAFRO." Captain Talbot, will be despatched for the above Ports, on WEDNESDAY, the 14th inst., at FOUR O'CLOCK P.M. For Freight or Passage, apply to RUSSELL & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 10th March, 1888. [287]

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from Mr. W. WATTS, to Sell by Public Auction, on MONDAY, the 12th March, 1888, at 2 P.M., at his Residence No. 6, Redna Terrace, THE WHOLE OF HIS HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c., comprising:—CRETONE COVERED DRAWING ROOM SUITE. CANTON BLACKWOOD MARBLE-TOP CENTRE TABLE, CHIMNEY GLASSES, PICTURES, ORNAMENTS, GASALIER, and GAS BRACKETS, CARPETS, and HEARTH RUGS. TEAKWOOD EXTENSION DINING TABLE, SEABOARD, WHATNOTS, VIENNA CHAIRS, DINNER, DESSERT, and TEA SETS, and GLASS WARE. DOUBLE and SINGLE IRON BED STEADS, CHILD'S COT, WARDROBE, CHEST OF DRAWERS, MARBLE-TOP TOILET TABLE, and WASHSTAND. One ENGLISH HARMONIUM, One MUSICAL BOX, One COTTAGE PIANO by RACKALL & Co. One JINICKSHA. One COOKING RANGE. &c. &c. Catalogue will be issued. Terms of Sale—As Customary. J. M. ARMSTRONG, Auctioneer. Hongkong, 11th March, 1888. [286]

greatest possible pleasure to distribute these prizes, which I shall lay on the table. The successful students and scholars of this institution for I am assured there is no nobler cause in the world than that of education, to which all of us should lend a helping hand when possible, in doing what we can to assist in the training of our young people for the battle of life, which is doubtless a much harder task, and a more serious matter for them, than in days gone by, now that everything has to be competed for, and it is a case of the survival of the fittest. The Government of this Colony rather than behind-hand in assistance of this nature, is anxiously desirous of being ahead, and doing all in its power to help forward the education of the young in Hongkong, including the boys and girls at this Diocesan Home, where better evidence could not exist of a condition of perfect harmony of feeling, and of the most satisfactory results in the important business of education. I congratulate you, my Lord Bishop, on the great success and on the high character of this institution, and I shall now have much pleasure in distributing the prizes.

PRIZE LIST. March 10th, 1888.

Sixth Form.—1. F. Southey; 2. H. W. Lapsley. Fifth Form.—1. Chew Tan-lin; 2. R. Lapsley. Fourth Form.—1. F. H. Benning; 2. Sung Ying-fu. Third Form.—1. A. I. Begley; 2. Miss M. A. Mather. Second Form.—1. I. Waller; 2. H. Goodridge; 3. I. Gubbins. First Form.—1. Fok Kam-yin; 2. G. Rapp; 3. Miss M. Aitken.

SPECIAL PRIZES. Scripture.

Sixth Form.—F. Southey. Fifth Form.—R. Lapsley. Fourth Form.—F. H. Benning. Third Form.—Miss M. A. Mather. Second Form.—H. Goodridge. First Form.—I. Waller. Physical Geography.—Wong Kwok-cheong. Euclid.—Chew Tan-lin. Algebra.—W. T. L. Mather.

Bishop Burton—There is just one thing to be done before His Excellency goes away, and that is for me to express our gratitude and thanks to Major-General Cameron and the ladies and gentlemen present for their kindness in coming to take notice of our successes and in contributing to the pleasure which our scholars will derive in having a few kind words said to them by His Excellency. We are exceedingly sorry not to have a better room in which to receive our kind visitors, but at any rate we must be content with what we have. The building is old and was constructed for other purposes than those for which it is now used, but notwithstanding its defects, we are encouraged to do what we can where we are, and to look forward hopefully to such assistance as our friends and His Excellency have kindly promised, judging from the dimensions of these two rooms I don't think that we could have reasonably expected greater energies of mind than our young girls and boys have developed within their walls; such energies, I may say, as do well encourage us to make an appeal for more room and a larger building. At present the Government grant is not large, and although only some of the children pay fees, we often have to take in such orphans as the exigencies of life come to our care; therefore the school is far from being self-supporting, and we are compelled to depend much on the benevolence of our friends. Mr. Chater was kind enough to pay for the land which is situated in the garden, but we do not possess the necessary funds for raising a building, and can only trust to public assistance, such as His Excellency has kindly intimated. In conclusion, I beg to express our hearty thanks to H. E. General Cameron and the ladies and gentlemen present for their attendance, and will now propose to the scholars that they give His Excellency three hearty cheers for his thoughtful presence to-day in coming to distribute these prizes.

Three cheers were given for His Excellency, followed by three cheers for the Bishop, and also three cheers for the ladies.

General Cameron replied in suitable terms and the proceedings terminated.

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THE Undersigned has received instructions from Mr. W. WATTS, to Sell by Public Auction, on MONDAY, the 12th March, 1888, at 2 P.M., at his Residence No. 6, Redna Terrace, THE WHOLE OF HIS HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c., comprising:—CRETONE COVERED DRAWING ROOM SUITE. CANTON BLACKWOOD MARBLE-TOP CENTRE TABLE, CHIMNEY GLASSES, PICTURES, ORNAMENTS, GASALIER, and GAS BRACKETS, CARPETS, and HEARTH RUGS. TEAKWOOD EXTENSION DINING TABLE, SEABOARD, WHATNOTS, VIENNA CHAIRS, DINNER, DESSERT, and TEA SETS, and GLASS WARE. DOUBLE and SINGLE IRON BED STEADS, CHILD'S COT, WARDROBE, CHEST OF DRAWERS, MARBLE-TOP TOILET TABLE, and WASHSTAND. One ENGLISH HARMONIUM, One MUSICAL BOX, One COTTAGE PIANO by RACKALL & Co. One JINICKSHA. One COOKING RANGE. &c. &c. Catalogue will be issued. Terms of Sale—As Customary. J. M. ARMSTRONG, Auctioneer. Hongkong, 11th March, 1888. [286]

AN Important Discovery is announced in the *Paris Figaro*, of a valuable remedy for nervous debility, physical exhaustion, and premature decay. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico; it saved him from a miserable existence and he eventually became a learned man. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico; it saved him from a miserable existence and he eventually became a learned man. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico; it saved him from a miserable existence and he eventually became a learned man.

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED. FOR MANILA VIA AMOY. THE Company's Steamship

"ZAFRO." Captain Talbot, will be despatched for the above Ports, on WEDNESDAY, the 14th inst., at FOUR O'CLOCK P.M. For Freight or Passage, apply to RUSSELL & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 10th March, 1888. [287]

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Intimations.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

SELLING OFF.

THE ENTIRE STOCK of JAPANESE CURIOS, SILKS, &c., &c., AT REDUCED PRICES. BY KUHN & Co.

Des respectfully to intimate that owing to the CLOSING OF THEIR HONGKONG STORE, they have decided to hold previously a 30 DAYS' CLEARANCE SALE, TO COMMENCE ON

MONDAY, the 12th instant.

This affords a very favourable opportunity to Art collectors and wholesale buyers.

Also, The whole of the SUBSTANTIAL and ELEGANTLY CARVED TEAKWOOD SHOW CASES covered with MAHOUN-SILK PLUSH, PLATE GLASS, MIRRORS, PLATE GLASS TOP COUNTERS, TABLES, WRITING DESKS, MIRRORS, &c., &c., for immediate disposal and delivery, whole or in parts.

For particulars apply between the hours of 8 to 10 A.M., to KUHN & Co., opposite the Hongkong Hotel, Hongkong, 8th March, 1888. [277]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE FOURTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the Company, Praya Central, on TUESDAY, the 13th March, at THREE O'CLOCK in the Afternoon for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers, and Electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

RUSSELL & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 5th March, 1888. [266]

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE FIFTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the Company, Praya Central, on FRIDAY, the 23rd March, at THREE O'CLOCK in the Afternoon for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers, declaring a Dividend, and Electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 6 to 2 p.m. instant, both days inclusive.

RUSSELL & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 6th March, 1888. [272]

THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS. NOTICE is hereby given that the SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF the SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Head Office, Victoria Hongkong, at NOON, on FRIDAY, the 23rd instant, to receive the Report of Directors, together with the Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1887.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 10th to the 23rd instant, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board. SAMUEL J

THE following will be the programme at Mr. Sangster's organ recital at St. John's Cathedral:

that it would entail a very considerable expense and a very considerable amount of trouble to importers and exporters, perhaps especially to exporters, because, although there is very little difficulty in obtaining orders of export cargoes to Europe, an America, or China, these could easily be gathered in this Chamber. But to importers of various kinds of a complicated nature, of goods arriving in very small packages, and sometimes, with perhaps three or four different descriptions of goods in one case, I think it would entail a infinity of trouble. I also think that the restrictions and duties it would impose on the owners of steamers in this Colony are entirely unnecessary, and that it would be better to leave it to myself or whomever this Colony should have authority to make, in respect to what people are imported. In fact, I can't see what the good of such a Bill in this colony would be at all. Of course it is stated that one great argument is to place this colony before the world and show what a good business is done here. Well, gentlemen, I think the world, generally, or the monetary centres at all events, where loans might be raised, know pretty well the position of the colony, and that it does a very considerable

giving here, as we have heard from a late Governor, is as great as was that of the port of London in 1842. However, I daresay there are gentlemen present who can speak to the actual details of the Bill much better than I can do, and I shall be glad to hear the views of some of all of them. (Applause.)

Hon. A. P. McEwen.—Sir, as I have had a good deal to do with the introduction of this Bill, I want to make the following observations.

position I do as representative of the Chamber Commerce in the Legislative Council, that I cannot say that I have any comprehensive views on the subject, and I have no definite conclusions and reasons at this meeting. And I hope that whatever the result of this discussion may be, whether the Bill is approved by a majority at this meeting or not, that at any rate it may be some good. I would say, at any rate as regards the Committee of the Chamber and myself, that if we have taken an interest in this Bill it has been not with a view of hurting the interests of any individual firm or person in this country, but with a view of having a general survey of the shipping industry in the East. I say that any individual firm was selected a member of the Committee of the Chamber to move in the Legislative Council for this Chamber it was represented to me by one of the most influential shipping firms in the East, if not in the world, that some official statistics of the trade of the port should be kept, and I was urged to get the Committee of the Chamber to move in the matter. Speaking for myself, and I am sure I may say the same with regard to others who are connected with the Chamber, that I do not think that similar statistics have been addressed to me on various commercial centres, and an astonishment has been expressed, that in one of the leading British colonies in the world such a total absence of statistics respecting its trade should have existed. The matter was brought

formed, of which I was not a member. After some time it was reported by that sub-committee that it would be both feasible and desirable that this measure should be carried out, and that Government was approached on the subject. With your permission and for the benefit of those who are not members of the Chamber, I will read the correspondence on the subject. The first letter was in June :—

I am requested by the Chamber to bring to the notice of Government the great necessity that exists for providing some means of settling disputes between a Colony House and the Regulations of the Imports and Exports of the Colony, and the Committee feel that the importance of the measure to those who have an interest in Hongkong will be apparent to all present. In consequence of their suggesting the subject for the consideration of Government.

The Committee desire to say that an Ordinance dealing with such matters has been introduced, and that it is now circulating free ports of Singapore, the chief ports of which are under the Governor-in-Council's power to make, vary, and revoke as he may think fit. It is also proposed to amend the Ordinance transcribed in this Col. my; it provides that the Regulations made under the Ordinance shall be published in the Government Gazette.

Under the Regulations, written declarations according to prescribed form, are required to be made within a fixed period to the Collector of the District, and to be submitted to the Surveyor and the Revenue Officer, and the onus of making these returns is thrown upon the Importer and the Exporter.

It is a matter of regret that the Collector, a similar scheme would be introduced in the case of the Importers and the Exporters, and as it is entirely open to the Importers to pay the Government, I am desired to respectfully request that the draft Bill and the Rules under it may be prepared and submitted to the Government, so that the Importers and the Exporters may have an opportunity of suggesting alterations on points of detail.

The letter was signed by myself as Vice-Chairman, in the absence of my friend the Chairman.

In July the Attorney-General sent the following suggestions:—

It would be wise to draft an Ordinance on the lines of the Income-tax Legislation, but before doing so I would submit some preliminary observations. The first is that the word "correct" is not used in the Bill, and is worse than no statistic at all, and therefore if an Ordinance is passed it should be made as efficacious as possible.

The Ordinance would enact:—

1. That certain returns or statements should be furnished by

3. Penalty for furnishing false returns; and here the difficulty arises. How is the Superintendent of Imports and Exports to ascertain whether the return is correct or not?

4. Should he have power to require the person furnishing the return to produce the goods, or should he have power to seize, or to require the producer to be the importer of such goods, or documents as he should deem necessary?

5. An Ordinance enacting merely a penalty for not furnishing returns, or for furnishing false returns, would practically be useless. It would be like enacting a penalty for not voting, or for not giving 'community approval of this.' Could not the Chamber of Commerce try what could be done on the voluntary system?

6. If they asked all importers to furnish to Government certain

These remarks received the very serious consideration of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce; and the following reply was sent:—

On the information of His Excellency the Officer-Administering the Government, that it is the opinion of the Committee, there is no serious obstacle in the minds of the Attorney General, providing the same form of legislation to ensure the Registration of Imports and Exports of the Colony.

If the Committee are rightly informed the Customs in Great Britain are dependent on the *bona fides* of those who make the statement, for the entry and delivery of goods: they have no power to inflict penalties in the case of wilful misrepresentation, and the same system should apply here. The Committee think the Superintendent of Imports and Exports should have the power not only to order the production of documents but also to inspect

That letter was signed by my friend Mr. Ryrie, Chairman of the Chamber.

The Chairman—I should say, that though I did sign that letter, I did not approve of its content, but I always sign a letter of a Committee if it happens to be Chairman, although I don't approve of it.

Legislative Council met the bill was brought before the community in due course, and at the first reading of the bill the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce stated he had received several letters from firms in the colony objecting to the bill, but whether these letters were written to him in his capacity as a member of the Legislative Council, or as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, or as a worthy private citizen, I do not know. At any rate we have never seen the letters, and I think myself it is a very great pity.

contain a great deal of very interesting information which might have induced us to change our minds either one way or the other regarding the desirability of this important bill. Now the

...that they think it might in some way interfere with their own individual interests, their revenues being published in some manner by the Government, that they ought not to be. As regards the

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26

